was merely the consignee of these goods. The vessel MV EUGENIA was hired by the manufacturer's shipping agent M/s Unimarine Agencies.

The ship was brought into Mumbai Anchorage on 23rd December, 2005. From the six containers, four have been extricated and their contents verified and found to be in order. Two containers are yet to be traced and the Navy is of the opinion that they may have merged with the wrecks of 2 ships, lying in the same area or drifted away. The four containers have been shifted to the premises of manufacturer M/s Premier Explosives for destruction.

MV EUGENIA had last visited Indian Ports in July to September 2005 and was carrying authorized explosives for the Indonesian Navy. It was reportedly attacked by pirates off Chittagong Port in Bangladesh. The vessel was inspected by various agencies including the Customs Department and the Cargo was certified as a legal consignment for Indonesia. The vessel on its own request was escorted at the time from Kolkata to the entrance of the Malacca Straits by the Indian Coast Guard and Naval Units.

Banning import of fish

*76. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether fish is being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fishery workers forum have demanded ban on import of fish; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The value of fish imports during 2004-05 is Rs. 40.92 crores, and during the first half of the current year (April 2005-September 2005) is Rs. 14.67 crores.

(c) and (d) Some representations have been received from fishermen's organizations for banning import of fish. Import of fish is mainly for the purpose of re-export after value addition. A small amount of fish is also

imported by the hotel sector, particularly of species and products that are not available in the country, which is meant to cater to the needs of tourists. The import of fish is very insignificant compared to the total fish produced in the country and also as compared to our own marine product exports. The imports of fish and fishery products are allowed only against a sanitary Import Permit (SIP).

Dumping of cheap goods

*77. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effective system of monitoring against any sudden surge in imports of highly subsidized cheap agricultural products from developed countries has been put in place;

(b) if so, the details of such monitoring and inspection system of imports, including those under various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs); and

(c) how many cases of excessive dumping of cheap goods have been detected during the last five years and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) The Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items including agricultural products from developed countries. Provisions to take trade defence measures have been provided in the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement concluded with Singapore and the Free Trade Agreements being negotiated with Thailand and ASEAN. The trade defence measures allow India to take anti-dumping action in cases where dumping of goods take place. Provisions have also been made to initiate safeguard action where surge in imports due to preference in duty cases injury or threatens to cause injury to the domestic industry. Detailed Operational Certification Procedure (OCP) have also been developed which *inter-alia* allows the customs of the importing country to request for inspection of the site of manufacturing in the exporting country if there is suspicion of circumvention.